THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir. The present head of the Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE), has a post graduate degree from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in one of the Agricultural sciences and has been an expert in Vocational Education for the last seventeen years. Prior to his selection as Joint Director, PSSCIVE, he was the Head of the Department *cil* Vocationalisation of Education in the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

(b) No, Sir. All academic posts in NCERT are filled through open advertisement on all India basis and selection through duly constituted Selection Committee. Many candidates from outside the NCERT have been inducted into the organisation, at senior levels, on the recommendation of these Selection Committees.

(c) Does not arise.

Rural Literacy

1921. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rural literacy are not satisfactory till date;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for improvement in this field;

(c) how many Rural functional literacy projects have been working at present in the country, details State-wise; and

(d) how much funds are allocated for rural literacy in Ninth Plan; details. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Rural Literacy rate as per 1991 census is 44.54%. The principal strategy of National Literacy Mission for eradication of illiteracy is Total Literacy Campaign. Presently 430 districts are covered under Total Literacy Campaign. However the revamped Rural Functional Literacy Project was approved for irnplementation during the 8th Plan but being implemented actually since 1994-95. The revamped Scheme is being implemented only "in restricted areas where campaign made total literacy cannot be implemented for logistic reasons and so an alternative made. As many as 65 projects were approved since its commencement. The projects are under various stages of implementation.

(c) The following projects have been sanctioned so far:

Aruanchal Pradesh	—	7
Assam	—	15
Mizoram	—	2
Manipur	—	10
Nagaland	—	14
Meghalaya	—	2
Sikkim	—	8
J&K	—	7

(d) It is proposed to continue the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Project during the Ninth Plan with an outlay of Rs. 5 crores. Outlays are not made on State-wise basis. On the basis of project proposals received from the States projects are sanctioned and funds distributed.

Maintenance of stadiums

1922. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: